WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for communicating between first and second unlike systems, comprising the steps of:

generating information at the first system in a first information format that is native to the first system;

5   converting with a first conversion system in a first conversion operation the generated information to a master space format such that a first converted information transmission is generated;

transmitting the first converted information to a master information system;

in response to receiving the first converted information at the master

10   information system, routing the received first converted information to a second conversion system in the master system format;

at the second conversion system, converting the information transmitted thereto from the master space format to a second information format in a second conversion operation to provide a second converted information transmission, the second

15   information format being native to the second system; and

routing the second converted information transmission to the second system.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the master space format comprises a universal format through which all information is processed between the first and second systems such that unlike information in unlike formats between the first and second system can be made compatible with the other of the first and second systems.

3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the generated information comprises data at the first system and the first information format comprises a first data format and the master space format comprises a master data format and the second information format comprises a second data format.

4.   The method of Claim 3, wherein the master data format comprises a finite length data packet, the finite length data packet having a unique value that has a relationship between the unique value and information in a relational database, which first and second conversion operations are associated with the relational database, such that conversion from the first data format to the master data format utilizes the information in the relational database and conversion of the information in the master data format to the second data format utilizes information in the relational database.

5.   The method of Claim 1, and further comprising the step of modifying the information received from the first system at the master information system prior to converting it to the second converted information format for transmission to the second system in the second conversion system in accordance with a predetermined modification algorithm.

6.   The method of Claim 4, wherein each of the finite length data packets have associated therewith in the unique value a classification system, such that the unique value classifies the information contained therein in a predetermined hierarchal structure.

7.   The method of Claim 6, wherein each of the unique finite length data packets is divided into a plurality of portions, at least one portion associated with an entity that is permanently associated with the data packet.

8.   The method of Claim 7, wherein at least another portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an entity or system that created the overall data packet.

9.   The method of Claim 7, wherein one portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an item or an object that is uniquely defined by the finite length data packet.

10.   The method of Claim 7, wherein each portion of the finite length data packet is associated with information that is contained within the relational database and associated therewith.

11.   The method of Claim 4, wherein the finite length data packet has a universal format associated with the master information system as the master data format such that each of the first and second data conversion system can determine the relationship between each of the finite length data packets and information stored in a relational database.

12.   The method of Claim 4, wherein the generated information at the first system in the first data format comprises a plurality of the finite length data packets arranged as a transaction packet.

13.   The method of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets comprises a value that is associated with a process that is utilized in the conversion operation in either the first or second conversion system.

14.   The method of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets in the transaction packet is associated with a data value in the relational database.

15.   A method for communicating with first and second unlike systems to an unlike master information system for processing of information therein, comprising the steps of:

generating first information at the first system in a first information format that is native to the first system;

generating second information at the second system in a second information format that is native to the second system;

converting with a first conversion system in a first conversion operation the first generated information to a master space format such that a first converted information transmission is generated;

transmitting the first converted information to the master information system;

converting with a second conversion system in a second conversion operation the generated information to the master space format such that a second converted information transmission is generated;

transmitting the second converted information to the master information system; and

in response to receiving the first and second converted information at the master information system, processing the received first and second converted information in the master system format in accordance with a predetermined processing algorithm to provide a result.

16.   The method of Claim 15, wherein the master space format comprises a universal format through which all information is processed from the first and second systems such that unlike information in unlike formats from the first and second systems can be made compatible with the other of the master space format.

17.   The method of Claim 15, wherein the first generated information comprises data at the first system and the first information format comprises a first data format the second generated information comprises data at the second system and the second

information format comprises a second data format and the master space format comprises a master data

18.   The method of Claim 17, wherein the master data format comprises a finite length data packet, the finite length data packet having a unique value that has a relationship between the unique value and information in a relational database, which first and second conversion operations are associated with the relational database, such that conversion from the first data format to the master data format utilizes the information in the relational database and conversion from the second data format to the master data format utilizes the information in the relational database.

19.   The method of Claim 18, wherein each of the finite length data packets have associated therewith in the unique value a classification system, such that the unique value classifies the information contained therein in a predetermined hierarchal structure.

20.   The method of Claim 19, wherein each of the unique finite length data packets is divided into a plurality of portions, at least one portion associated with an entity that is permanently associated with the data packet.

21.   The method of Claim 20, wherein at least another portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an entity or system that created the overall data packet.

22.   The method of Claim 20, wherein one portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an item or an object that is uniquely defined by the finite length data packet.

23.   The method of Claim 20, wherein each portion of the finite length data packet is associated with information that is contained within the relational database and associated therewith.

24.   The method of Claim 18, wherein the finite length data packet has a universal format associated with the master information system as the master data format such that each of the first and second data conversion systems can determine the relationship between each of the finite length data packets and information stored in a relational database.

25.   The method of Claim 18, wherein the first and second generated information at the respective one of the first and second systems in the respective first or second data format comprises a plurality of the finite length data packets arranged as a transaction packet.

26.   The method of Claim 25, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets comprises a value that is associated with a process that is utilized in the conversion operation in either the first or second conversion systems.

27.   The method of Claim 25, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets in the transaction packet is associated with a data value in the relational database.

28.   A method for communicating between first and second unlike systems, comprising the steps of:

generating information at the first system in a first information format that is native to the first system;

converting with a first conversion system in a first conversion operation the generated information to a master space format compatible with a first master information system and recognizable thereby, such that a first converted information transmission is generated;

transmitting the first converted information to the first master information system;

in response to receiving the first converted information at the first master information system, converting the received first converted information to a form recognizable by a second master information system in the master space format as master converted first converted information in a first master conversion operation;

in response to receiving the master converted first converted information at the second master information system, routing the received master converted first converted information to a second conversion system in the master space format;

at the second conversion system, converting the information transmitted thereto from the master space format to a second information format in a second conversion operation to provide a second converted information transmission, the second information format being native to the second system; and

routing the second converted information transmission to the second system.

29.   The method of Claim 28, wherein the master space format comprises a universal format through which all information is processed between the first and second systems such that unlike information in unlike formats between the first and second system can be made compatible with the other of the first and second systems.

30.   The method of Claim 28, wherein the generated information comprises data at the first system and the first information format comprises a first data format and the

master space format comprises a master data format and the second information format comprises a second data format.

31. The method of Claim 30, wherein the master data format comprises a finite length data packet, the finite length data packet having a unique value that has a relationship between the unique value and information in a first relational database, which first conversion operation and first master conversion operation are associated with the relational database, such that conversion from the first data format to the master data format utilizes the information in the relational database and conversion of the information in the master data format in the first master information system to the master data format in the second master conversion system utilizes information in the relational database.

32. The method of Claim 28, and further comprising the step of modifying the information received from the first system at either the first or second master information systems prior to converting it to the second converted information format for transmission to the second system in the second conversion system in accordance with a predetermined modification algorithm.

33. The method of Claim 31, wherein each of the finite length data packets have associated therewith in the unique value a classification system, such that the unique value classifies the information contained therein in a predetermined hierarchal structure.

34. The method of Claim 33, wherein each of the unique finite length data packets is divided into a plurality of portions, at least one portion associated with an entity that is permanently associated with the data packet.

35. The method of Claim 34, wherein at least another portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an entity or system that created the overall data packet.

36.   The method of Claim 34, wherein one portion of the finite length data packet is associated with an item or an object that is uniquely defined by the finite length data packet.

37.   The method of Claim 34, wherein each portion of the finite length data packet is associated with information that is contained within the relational database and associated therewith.

38.   The method of Claim 31, wherein the finite length data packet has a universal format associated with the master information system as the master data format such that each of the first and second data conversion system can determine the relationship between each of the finite length data packets and information stored in a relational database.

39.   The method of Claim 31, wherein the generated information at the first system in the first data format comprises a plurality of the finite length data packets arranged as a transaction packet.

40.   The method of Claim 39, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets comprises a value that is associated with a process that is utilized in the conversion operation in either the first or second conversion system.

41.   The method of Claim 39, wherein at least one of the finite length data packets in the transaction packet is associated with a data value in the relational database.

42.   A packet of data of a finite data length that uniquely identifies some element or object, comprising:

at least one information field having contained therein a unique value that has associated therewith a time stamp as to the time that the unique value was created and which comprises a part of the unique value, the unique value associated with a relational database and information therein that further defines the element or object and to which said unique value points.

43.   The packet of data of Claim 42, wherein the unique value has associated therewith a classification system, such that the unique value classifies the information contained therein in a predetermined hierarchal structure.

44.   The packet of data of Claim 43, wherein the data packet includes a plurality of information fields, each containing therein a unique value that has associated therewith a time stamp as to the time that the associated unique value was created and which comprises a part of the associated unique value, wherein the combination of all of the information fields providing an overall unique value, at least one of the fields of information associated with an entity that is permanently associated with the data packet.

45.   The packet of data of Claim 44, wherein at least another of the fields of information is associated with an entity or system that created the overall data packet.

46.   The packet of data of Claim 44, wherein one of the fields of information is associated with an item or an object that is uniquely defined by the finite length data packet.